

PEACE NEWS

Brotherhood : Non-Violence : Freedom

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THE FUTILE WAR IN KOREA

Withdraw UN forces

By EMRYS HUGHES, M.P.

"**IS KOREA WORTH SAVING?**" This is the title of an article by Lt.-Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger in the American magazine, News Week.

The General tells us he commanded the Eighth Army in Korea for four years and he thinks that Mr. Syngman Rhee has been encouraged in his recalcitrant attitude by

"repeated statements of certain former commanders in the Far East that we have the capacity for winning a complete victory in Korea and that if we believe these statements there is some excuse for Rhee's demand that the Reds be driven out of Korea."

But this American General is under no such illusions. He tells his readers:

"As one who commanded the Eighth Army for four years I do not believe that a victory could be secured in North Korea

* Continued on back page

US Command in Berlin restrained

BRITISH, FRENCH, STOPPED COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION

HENRY HOLM, Peace News and World-over press correspondent in Berlin, writes that during the East Berlin demonstrations close to the demarcation line, the American commander agreed to this.

The French commander, however, who is in charge of the Allied forces during June, felt that such action might precipitate violence so that anything might happen, even the outbreak of World War III.

Securing the support of his British colleague, he over-rode the U.S. command and an order was given not to permit the demonstration. Even so, a loud-speaker car that is believed to be American directed West Berliners who had crossed the border to burn and smash shops.

United Nations has only to decide upon the appropriate punishment should it be found that they have brought about a peaceful settlement with Germany, should now be given to the people of South Africa; not a new concept of human society, will be the predominant

ment that is required, but a new concept of collective security; not a new concept of human society, will be the predominant

Mr. Franklin said: "My fellow members will hardly be surprised if I express the hope that when the present National Service Act terminates it will not be renewed.

"It seems remarkable that with the much-publicised 'freedom,' the majority of countries conscript their young men into fighting services and imprison them if they decline to be a part of a machine which has for its basis a training which implies 'Kill or be killed!'

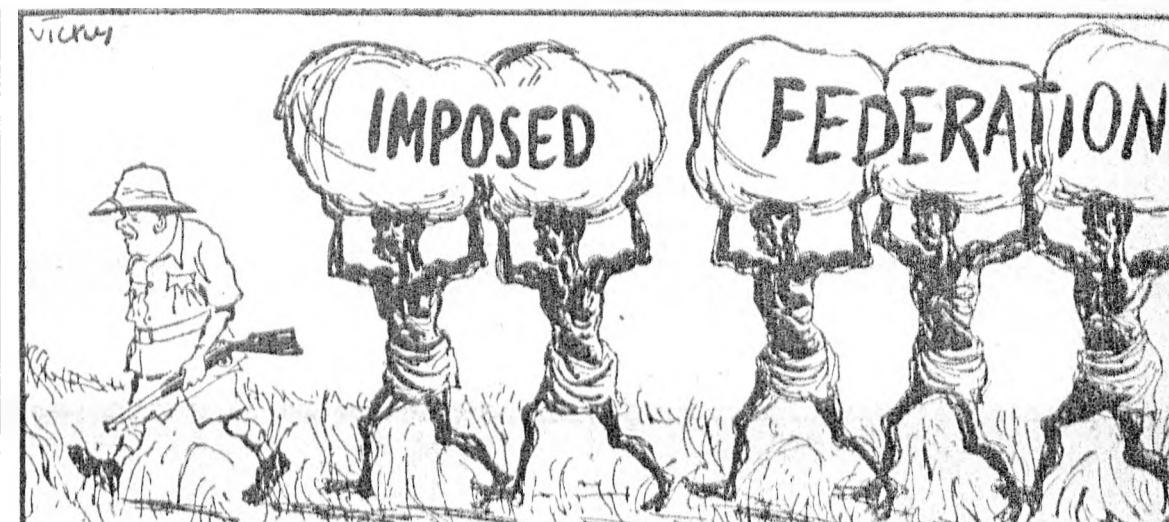
"Truly the word 'freedom' has some strange interpretations in the twentieth century, went on Mr. Franklin.

HISTORY PROVES WAR FUTILE

"At the most impressionable years of their lives it is morally and socially wrong to train millions of young men in the art of using weapons to kill or disembowel their fellow workers in another country.

"Can we wonder that a few, when they return to civilian life, have anti-social ideas and find difficulty in settling down to an ordinary, normal life?"

Purning to war itself, Mr. Franklin said he had often asked himself why it was still regarded as something which could settle international differences.



Courtesy News Chronicle

MP tells Trafalgar Square rally

"I WON'T VOTE FOR CONSCRIPTION"

By Tom Wardle

ON a beautiful summer afternoon as cosmopolitan London made its inevitable way to the magnetic West End, members of Britain's major pacifist organisations staged a big demonstration against "the degrading and immoral practice of forced military labour"—conscription.

Few of the strollers in Trafalgar Square probably knew that the National Service Act which legalises compulsory military service is due for review this year.

Clifford MacQuire, of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and chairman of the meeting, told them. "On this Fourth of July (our American friends will tell you what that means), this Independence Day, we want you to do some independent thinking, some new thinking;" about military service, about training young men who have no right to vote, how to kill other men.

Eric Tucker of the Quakers led off for the liaison group, the Joint Standing Pacifist Committee, who were responsible for the meeting.

He argued that conscription had begun as a "necessary evil" which had apparently become so necessary that it was no longer considered evil.

"If we do not stop this thing now, I doubt whether we shall be able to come to you in 1958 (when the proposed new Act would expire) and attack conscription again."

Korea : not worth fighting

Emrys Hughes, M.P. (Lab. South Ayrshire) talked the sound realism for which his constituents chose him.

"We have had the burden of conscription

continued because of Korea," he said. "Now we discover that the war was a waste of time and life. Syngman Rhee never was worth fighting for . . ."

The people were wondering about war. Was there going to be another?

If Sir Winston Churchill was more popular now than two years ago it was because the people assumed that he might be leading the world to peace.

If the people were not to be deluded again, there needed to be some concrete evidence of peaceful intentions all round.

Mr. Hughes' solution: drop conscription; call back all the boys now sitting in other people's countries; offer the unemployed soldiers jobs on the land; build peace at home and initiate a world drive for global peace and prosperity.

A gesture of peace

The Peace Pledge Union's chairman, Sybil Morrison, no stranger to Trafalgar Sq., got up next to ask her listeners if they thought that experimentation with atom bombs in Australia

* Continued on back page

FEDERATION: MANY TORIES ANXIOUS

—Lord Hemingford

IN the Debate on the Central African Federation Bill in the House of Lords on Monday, Lord Hemingford said that as a good Conservative he "opposed the Bill to the end."

He said he was representing the anxieties of a great many Tories in all parts of the country.

"It is not a good thing to take a leap in the dark," he declared. "But we are being asked to take a leap in the clear bright moonshine into collision with a very large number of Africans."

Lord Hemingford has lived for 26 years in Africa.

Alleged police torture in Kenya

AFRICANS URGE ENQUIRY

IN its latest issue of "Diary of the Kenya Crisis," the Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism has published material relating to alleged brutality and intimidation by Security Forces there.

The issue contains copies of correspondence between Mr. Dudley J. Thompson, a well-known West Indian lawyer, practising in East Africa, and the Governor of Kenya, involving a complaint by some Kikuyu prisoners (since acquitted).

Pistol threat

The prisoners alleged that while they were in the cells they were threatened by a man in civilian clothes, who cursed and waved a pistol at them and said, "Let any of you move a bit and I will finish him off right now."

In his reply the Chief Secretary for the Colony, Mr. P. D. Major, says that "the officer concerned in this incident was suspended from duty immediately after it and has been charged before a Court with disorderly behaviour contra Section 61 of the Police Ordinance."

On June 10, 1953, Dr. Somerville Hastings asked the Colonial Secretary in the House of Commons about the circumstances of the death of Elijah Gideon who died from shock after a beating carried out under orders.

Mr. Lyttelton said the police investigation had been completed and the Attorney-General was considering legal action.

Confessions obtained by torture

Asked if there were other cases where torture had been used to secure confessions, Mr. Lyttelton replied:

"There are two other cases under investigation now, speaking from memory."

A letter on alleged atrocities by Security Forces, sent to the Congress of Peoples by a group of Africans, pleads that "you will take this matter seriously and propagate it to the world as well as urging the Colonial Office to send the Commission of Enquiry without delay, if we are not all to be killed."

London's Peace House opened

THE new home of the National Peace Council at 29 Great James St., London, W.C.1, was formally opened on Monday.

A meeting was held at Conway Hall near by, at which speeches were delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr. Harrow Cadbury, Mr. Victor Gollancz, the Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, C.H., M.P., and Mr. Reginald Sorensen, M.P.

Lord Lloyd Orr, the President, whose gift from the Nobel Peace Prize award had made possible the acquiring of the premises, was in the Chair.

Mr. Franklin said, "I have sometimes said things which did not receive the unanimous approbation of the members; but I have never conceived it to be my duty to consider whether my views would be popular or not before I spoke in public. That is a cowardly way as I see it, and the negation of leadership."

EVENTS IN AFRICA

On events in Africa, Mr. Franklin considered that they must cause all right-thinking people to ask themselves if there were not an

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4
STAmford Hill 2262 (three lines)

10th July, 1953

THE GERMAN QUESTION

ANY ATTEMPT TODAY to plan social advance on lines which respect human personality founders on the acceptance of the need for military preparation.

We are not now referring to the enormous proportion of the labour and resources that is disposed of in armaments construction, although this in itself is a formidable barrier to social advance. What we have in mind is the extended control over the lives of men and women required in the industrial structures of states organised in terms of military power.

When arrangements are made to free Germany from the control of the Occupying Powers should the German people proceed to follow those powers in a policy of rearmament their Government will eventually develop a highly centralised control over its people and their industrial structure just as do the other powers, although possibly with more efficiency.

Before the fate of Germany is settled a general election in Western Germany is likely and there is a chance that this will result in the return of the Social Democrats.

Now the Social Democrats are not pacifists, but they have made declarations against rearming Germany. For this reason we offer the following considerations for an unarmed Germany, which would not only have advantages over the rest of the European nations in the standard of life it could attain, but would also have a freedom in the control and development of its social forms and structure that would not obtain elsewhere.

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That the existence of an artificial dividing line across Germany is incompatible with self-determination is obvious, and pacifists naturally desire that the occupying troops who maintain that line should be withdrawn so that the German people can manage their own affairs.

It does not follow from this however that we should favour a return to a Bismarckian Germany any more than we should favour the preservation of an Imperial Britain or a Napoleonic France.

A united, highly centralised, highly industrialised Germany would be a menace to the peace of the world as are all the other power agglomerations of our time. A pacifist policy for Germany therefore should encourage the break-up of the Reich into something corresponding to the old German States in the hope of a similar policy for Great Britain, France, Russia and the US.

There is still strong sentiment for local autonomy in East Prussia, Silesia, Bavaria, the Saar, the Rhineland and Schleswig (which is mostly Danish anyway). It is a healthy sentiment and should be fostered.

Tendencies among the politicians surrounding Adenauer (reflected also in the East) as Germany's exports grow and her heavy industry expands, show disturbing evidence of power-mania. German neutrality, an essential condition for the relaxing of cold war tensions, can only be a reality if self-government is restored to the States on a full democratic basis. "Self-Government all round" says Aldous Huxley, "is not compatible with military efficiency," just as the centralisation and control over human lives required by military efficiency is not compatible with human liberty.

*

The response to a move toward decentralisation might be surprisingly good. Germany could conceivably lead in a movement for the democratic breakdown of industrial-military power in Europe and elsewhere. Pacifism has need of a clear political objective. The World Pacifist Meeting recognised that: "A peace propaganda that is unrelated to a policy of fundamental social reconstruction and human transformation will fail in its purpose in a period when time is fast running out."

Assuming that the attempt to rearm the German people and harness them in the power conflict through NATO can be prevented it is possible that the Powers would be ready to accept such a solution for Germany, but it would necessarily only be effective if the German people wanted it.

This is something to which our friends in Germany may turn their attention and we must try to help them by thinking beyond the catch-phrases of the hour.

Never the right time

THOSE who are old enough to have lived through the two world wars know from experience that it is never the right time to negotiate.

If the war is not going well it is necessary to wait, otherwise it would be necessary to accept a humiliating peace. When the enemy has been forced onto the defensive it is still not the right time to negotiate because it would be absurd not to follow up the advantage that has been gained.

Precisely the same kind of militaristic stultification applies in a "cold war."

Negotiations between the East and the West had to be deferred, we were told, until the West had been able to build up strength. When we go into negotiations we must negotiate from strength, said the statesmen, and particularly the American statesmen.

Now, when American military expansion is nearing its completion, and the Russian satellite states are indicating weaknesses and slowing down the development of the heavy industry upon which armaments production is based, the conclusion that the time for negotiation is now here immediately drops out of the picture; people like John Foster Dulles urge that the cracks in the Soviet structure shown by the events in East Germany and Czechoslovakia indicate that this is quite the wrong moment to enter into negotiations. We must now exploit the discontents behind the iron curtain for our own purposes.

Just as in wartime there is a swing backwards and forwards between these two inconsequential lines of thought until a political chaos that is called "unconditional surrender" has to take the place of a peace; so in cold war we are in danger of the same swing until cold war catastrophically collapses into war without the adjective.

We have to face the fact that in the Republican Party in the USA are to found the most dangerous militarists of our time.

America is the most heavily armed country in the world and its statesmen are coming to make all the old fatal militaristic assumptions.

The time for genuine negotiations is now, and we cannot enter upon them too early.

We hope that the spokesman for Great Britain in the preliminary conference of the three powers that opens today (July 10) at Washington will be mandated to make it clear that this is the British view.

Letter from East Germany

WE are glad to print on page four a letter from a young East German Communist.

While it adds little to what we have been able to learn of developments in East Germany it throws a valuable light on the emotions that are now being experienced there.

We are prompted to offer a warning comment, however. Our young friend asks, after referring to the fact that the Government has yielded to the pressure of the masses:

"Very well, if a Government complies

THE SICK LEVIATHANS

MORE than once I have suggested to audiences in this country that the struggle between modern power states has become a naked power struggle.

The object is power for the sake of power.

There is no defined, rational objective, not to mention an ethical one. Nor is there any restraint upon the means employed, though these means are obviously and admittedly instruments by which nations commit suicide



Letter
from
the
U. S. A.

By A. J.
MUSTE

in the effort to murder each other.

Parenthetically, I have also explained that I cannot either in reason or in conscience pay war taxes to the American government since among other things—I do not want to help arm Russia, which will certainly match any military build up the United States may engage in just as the latter will match anything the Kremlin may produce.

Each might as well give away half its war production to the other in this absurd armaments race.

One is reminded of the observation by Augustine in *The City of God* about "the city of the world" which seems to dominate and destroy everything but is itself dominated and destroyed by its own lust for power.

These reflections are occasioned by contemporary developments which plainly indicate that the power blocs on both sides of the Iron Curtain are undergoing a major crisis, and so far as anyone can see neither is showing any dazzling ability to handle the situation.

We are now witnessing the amazing and in a way ludicrous spectacle that when one

BEHIND THE NEWS

with the justified demands of the masses, isn't that democracy?"

The answer to that question is that compliance with the demands of the majority of the people—whether the Government holds them to be justified or not—is part of democracy; but it should not be necessary in a democratic society for the workers to come out on the streets in angry demonstrations in order to make their views understood.

Our friend admits with contrition that he and his colleagues have been guilty of self-delusion. We do not emphasise this in any critical sense. It was we believe a self-delusion that was part of the psychological mechanism for personal protection, and we think it exceedingly likely that the British population, subjected to the same pressures would develop the same kind of protective self-delusion.

What makes it necessary to draw attention to his comment is the fact that the question we have quoted from this young Communist follows his remark:

"What our Government and Party and the police have done this week, and done with a certain pluck, would not have been possible in Adenauer's republic."

What is possible, however, is that later on this year at the polls Adenauer and his fellow-ministers may be removed without any treason trials or angry demonstrations in the streets by the workers. If the Adenauer Government is not thus removed it will mean that the West German workers do not want its removal.

We hold no brief for the Adenauer Government. It will give us satisfaction to see it go.

Until a similar transfer can take place peacefully in East Germany as part of the normal electoral arrangements our friend will do well not to congratulate himself on the superiority of that regime. Otherwise he will be well on the way again to that kind of self-delusion which prevents him, while he knows in his heart that things are wrong, from saying so openly.

The UN and Korea

THE position of UN in Korea is becoming derisory.

It has been evident throughout the war that the UN was really an instrument of American policy, but the forms required by the fiction that UNO was in control have been maintained.

Now the attempt to maintain the forms is being discarded.

Dr. Syngman Rhee makes manifest his contempt for the whole conception upon which the United Nations have claimed that they

have based their backing for him in the war.

Nothing is done by the UN about this, but Mr. Walter Robertson is sent to negotiate with Dr. Rhee on behalf of the American Government.

There has been an Associated Press report that Mr. Robertson has offered an American undertaking to quit the post-armistice political conference and reopen the war if there is no agreement on Korean unity within 30 days.

There has been no confirmation of this report, but the fact that it can seriously be reported as a possibility indicates the depth into which the standing of the UN has fallen.

If there is to be any chance of UN being regarded in the future as a serious factor in international affairs, Mr. Nehru's repeated call for a General Assembly meeting to discuss Korea should be acted upon now. As Mr. P. J. Noel Baker has pointed out in the House of Commons, it is nearly two months since a settlement has been held up by President Rhee and there is danger in delaying further the summoning of the Assembly.

Mr. Armstrong's prophecy
THE present Director of Public Affairs for the US State Department is Mr. Orland K. Armstrong.

Almost immediately upon his appointment according to the New York Times for May 1, he predicted the release of the Korean prisoners of war held by the United Nations.

Had Mr. Armstrong in mind the proposals which the United Nations Command were to make on May 25, despite the fact that they were at variance with those already agreed upon by the United Nations Assembly?

The report does not read in this sense, was release and not further negotiations referred to. Had he some preparations in mind not related to negotiations but the break-out of prisoners that occurred on June 17, and the days following?

These men escaped we have been through the recalcitrance and bad faith of Dr. Syngman Rhee, who through the instrumentality of General Won Yung Duk made secret arrangements to ensure that the escape would be contrived without the possibility of UN Command interference; Mr. Armstrong's prophecy seems to put this claim in a different light.

On the same occasion he predicted the release of all Chinese prisoners who desired to fight for the United Nations and remarked that they could be assisted to get to Formosa if they so wished.

Forced labour
THE Committee on forced labour set up by the United Nations and the International Labour Office has issued its report.

It is a document of 650 pages, more than a hundred of which are devoted to the position in Russia.

The Committee has been handicapped by the fact that it had no authority to investigate the spot in the countries against which allegations have been made and has had to base its conclusions on an examination of testimony and documents. It is of course very easy for a Government to show that it has legislation or constitutional provisions that exclude forced labour. Its formal condemnation however does not necessarily mean that it is not to be found.

All 33 Governments in the USSR have refused to reply to the questions put by the Committee. The Russian delegation to the United Nations returned without any kind of annotation to the body of evidence concerning Russia submitted to it by the Committee, remarking merely that the documents contained calumnies directed against the Soviet Union.

The USSR apparently took the view that the right way to deal with calumnies is to refuse to rebut them.

The Committee concludes that there is a system of forced labour in Russia based largely on a system of punishments for holding or being suspected of holding, political views at variance with the regime, and this system seems to play a part of some significance in the national economy."

Forced labour on a similar political basis is found to exist in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Spain.

South Africa

The Report condemns the labour conditions that exist in South Africa. While there is no forced labour on the same basis as exists in Russia and Spain, there exists a "legislative system applied only to the indigenous population and designed to maintain an inseparable barrier between these people and the inhabitants of European origin."

This has the effect of channelling the work of native Africans into agriculture and manual work and it has created a permanent cheap labour force which is in effect a system of forced labour of significance to the national economy."

Thus by a different method the same result is achieved in South Africa as is achieved in Russia.

The Committee also finds that forced labour conditions of a similar character may exist in Kenya.

Letters to the Editor

Ellis Island . . .

THE DETENTION OF STUART MORRIS at Ellis Island accentuates the gradually emerging fact that America, despite her much vaunted freedom of speech, allows the liberty of criticism only to those whose criticism is innocuous and diffused in effect through lack of energy, courage and moral suasion.

Outstanding and forceful pacifists have always been placed under restraint.

An interesting case is that of the Hungarian Jewish pacifist, the late Rosika Schwimmer, founder of the woman's suffrage movement in Hungary, organiser of the International Woman Suffrage Congress held in Budapest in 1913, secretary of the Women's Peace Party, and Hungarian Minister to Switzerland (the woman envoy of modern times).

On being forced to flee Hungary in 1920 as the result of persecution by Horthy's White terror regime, she came to the USA. Her pacifist creed remained the motivating force of her existence, and she was penalised for it by being refused American citizenship in 1929.

The Supreme Court upheld the refusal by a vote of six to three. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, who wrote the dissenting opinion (Justices Brandeis and Sanford concurring), pointed out the similarity between Rosika Schwimmer's views and those of the Quakers, and concluded with this classic sentence:

"I had not supposed hitherto that we regretted our inability to expel them because they believe more than some of us do in the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount."

AVRAHAM HADAS

Timorim,
P.O. Nahalal, Israel.

... and democracy

THAT'S what I call democracy! These were my words when I read the good news of Stuart Morris' release from Ellis Island to go on a lecture tour in the States after a detention of two weeks.

Much has been written about the questionable democracy of a "free world" that informed him because his activities in the United States would be "prejudicial to the public interest." It certainly is necessary to be on the watch and check all attempts to thwart democratic liberties; democracy is not attained once for ever, it must constantly be wrought for and deserved.

Yet it is only fair that we should also give our full attention to the positive side of the event. The very fact that the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Attorney-General could disagree with the first judgment and carry it, is a proof that democracy still does exist in the USA.

When I think of the way in which constitutions and laws are completely ignored and in our countries behind the "Iron Curtain"—without any means of appeal—I cannot but admire such an Attorney-General who lets the law take its course and cancels the arbitrary decision of a judge to open the way to a man who really stands up for his convictions.

That's what I call democracy!

PREMYSL PITTER
Camp Valka,
Nuremberg, W. Germany.

of any who have emulated who were "conscientious objectors" of military age and were longer liable for the service whose development they direction to this. Myself

ility of war
act from religious, pacifism, action for its practice, and the threat of militarism, elements worth preserving.

affirmation of the supremacy of peace as a purifying agent and the force of ideas is of blind faith in the idea, not surprising that many reliance on armaments of the past, however, to be exposed along

they hold to be erroneous.

Saturday, July 11

BIRMINGHAM: 2.30 p.m.; Pirbright College, Oak, Annual Garden Party. J. Allen (Chairman), Peace News, PPU.

LEIGH-ON-SEA: 3.30 to 7.30 p.m., approx.; Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, S.E. 18. Rev. Peter Ackroyd, "The Vicar of Hornchurch," P.P.U.

MANCHESTER: 3 p.m.; Plat Fields, Community Church, 40 E. 35th St., Farewell speech by Stuart Morris, War Resisters League.

MANCHESTER: 3.30 p.m.; Friends' Meeting House, Bush Rd., Tom Wardle, "The Politics of Peace," PPU.

LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m.; Lincoln's Inn Fields; open-air meeting; Sybil Morrison and Robert Horniman, PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1: 3 p.m.; Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh St., Meeting for business and discussion. Visitors welcome. PPU Religious Commission.

REIGATE: 3.30 p.m.; Brocknere, Wray Pk., Rd. Area Garden Party. Rev. Claud Colman, MA, P.R.

SATURDAY, July 12

GLOUCESTER: 2.30 p.m.; Open-air meeting, Gate, Every Sunday, PPU.

HYDE PARK: 6 p.m.; Speakers' Corner, Arch. Open-air meeting, PPU.

LONDON, N.W.11: 2.30 p.m.; King Alfred London Area PPU, Garden Party.

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The futile war in Korea

* From page one

without prohibitive losses and dangers which would increase mile by mile should a penetration be successful and an advance towards the Yalu follow. There would be a chance of bloody defeat.

"President Rhee has talked of fighting alone. In this case a Red victory would not be long delayed. Even if we gave the South Koreans the support of our air, navy, artillery and other units—and let's not forget that we have enjoyed continuous air support over the front while the Reds have had none—the result would be stalemate."

So that there are very strong military reasons why responsible American military opinion is not backing Syngman Rhee's demand that the war should continue until the Chinese are forced to withdraw from North Korea.

The General goes on to say:

"Rhee is not reported as retreating from his extreme stand. That may be because he realises that otherwise we would have little recourse except to sign a separate truce, withdraw forces, and leave him to fight the war alone as he demands."

"This would indeed be a bitter pill for us to swallow."

"However, it would not do us any great harm in the strategic sense. I am convinced that the security of Japan is not a major reason for continuing the war, providing we can now reach an honourable peace. And peace with honour does not necessarily mean the indefinite appeasement of Syngman Rhee."

So after three years of destructive war in Korea this General is resigned to leaving Syngman Rhee to his fate if he wishes to continue the struggle.

Two million homeless

No wonder he has turned his capacity for vituperation against the Americans who have now realised that they cannot gain a military victory in Korea.

What the war in Korea has meant to the people of that tragic country has been vividly summed up by Patrick O'Donovan in his despatches recently published in The Observer. In his article on June 21 he wrote:

"War has run like a harrow four times up and down the country."

"In this process the cities of the North were virtually wiped out. The destruction has been more complete than any in Europe. Before the war, the population of the North was reckoned as 9,000,000; today it is probably nearer 3,000,000. Four million refugees walked over the hills into the South. Here 2,000,000 are still homeless. A million and a half civilians have died as a result of gunfire, starvation and exhaustion."

"For two years nearly 4,000,000 have relied for their basic grain rations on a United Nations dole. Sixty-nine million dollars have been spent to keep the South Koreans barely alive. Four hundred thousand homes have been destroyed. There are 100,000 known orphans and some 30,000 of them are in orphanages. There are 16,000 amputees from the Republic of Korea Army and facilities for about a third of them. By the latest count, their army has suffered a total of 257,000 casualties."

THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

Appeal from Budapest meeting

ON June 15 the World Peace Council met at Budapest. About 250 people from 50 different countries were present. When the meeting opened it seemed that at last there would be an armistice in Korea and that the killing and destruction would come to an end.

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"In effect, the United Nations are faced with the problem of constructing a new economy."

Could anything have demonstrated the complete futility of modern war more than the last three years of Korea?

What have the Koreans gained by it?

What have the United Nations gained by it?

What have we gained by it?

What has anybody gained by it?

Half our soldiers who have been fighting in Korea have been National Service men.

One wonders what the relatives of the 136,000 American casualties can be saying now when they read an article, "Is Korea worth saving?"

What every intelligent human being in the USA and Britain should be saying now is: "Stop the war whether Syngman Rhee agrees or not."

UNO should declare for the ending of hostilities, the withdrawal of all soldiers and the setting up of a Korea Reconstruction Commission on which all nations which have fought should have representatives. Without United Nations' and especially American aid Syngman Rhee's government would not continue the war for a week.

So let us press for an immediate peace and no more support for wars in the Far East or anywhere else.

LETTER FROM USA

* From page two

for word: "The pendulum of history is beginning to swing . . . the cringing group of gangsters and felons in the Pentagon," etc.

Where the forces are so vast and complex and the ordinary person lacks so much essential information—as do even the top "policy makers" on both sides, very likely—it is hazardous to speculate on the "meaning" of events and to try to discern trends. For what it may be worth, this is how I feel about the present situation.

Both sides weakened

It is, from one standpoint, a clear advantage that both sides should be at least momentarily shaken and weakened. It seems most unlikely that either wishes to precipitate an immediate crisis or risk the outbreak of general war.

However, the danger that desperation—perhaps over a severe political crisis in the Soviet bloc or the threat of an economic collapse in the United States—might lead to tragedy should not be overlooked.

The appeal to governments to negotiate should certainly be pressed, but we should be on guard against subjective and over-optimistic evaluations of the actions of power politicians. Faith in "that of God" in them means faith that they can turn to God and cease to be power politicians, not faith in power politics.) I regret that I do not see signs of eagerness to negotiate in Mr. Dulles' Department, for which Senator Wiley is probably a mouthpiece.

A basic resolution of the crisis requires two things: the abolition or drastic reformation of the dictatorship in Russia and the abolition or drastic reformation of American monopolistic and predatory capitalism. It is too soon to say that either of these requirements is being met.

Mr. Justice Finnemore sentenced . . . a National Serviceman to eight months imprisonment for inflicting grievous bodily harm on another man by hitting him with a knuckle-duster. The man said he found the knuckle-duster in a barrack-room at the camp . . . The Judge said it was alarming to think that he just found a knuckle-duster in a barrack-room. "You must know," he said, "that this country will never tolerate the use of such weapons." . . . A statement issued by Western Command said that a few men with criminal habits sometimes found their way into units under the National Service system.

—Daily Telegraph, July 3, 1953.

IT is proverbial that Judges in this country are past masters of the art of forcing an explanation by refusing to understand colloquialisms, but Judge Finnemore seems to have surpassed even that technique of deliberate ignorance in his recent remarks to the National Serviceman whom he sentenced for a violent attack upon a fellow human being.

It is, perhaps, a matter for thankfulness that someone other than those of a tiny minority, is "alarmed" by the fact that a vicious weapon such as a knuckle-duster is to be found, apparently just lying around in a barrack-room. But it is a little disingenuous to speak as though the weapon were one of the use of which this country would never tolerate.

Perhaps Mr. Justice Finnemore adds to the other quite ordinary things that Judges in this country do not know, a lack of any knowledge of Commandos, their weapons, and their training.

It is not so very long ago that an escaped Borstal boy when recaptured with a knuckle-duster in his possession, said that he had stolen it from one of the Borstal officers. The officer in question told the Court that it had been allocated to him when he served as a Commando.

In fact this country does tolerate the use of such weapons. It is useless to deny that the British, like any other peoples preparing for war, will tolerate any weapon from knuckle-

TRAFAVGAR SQUARE

* From page one

(scheduled for next year) bespoke peaceful intentions on Britain's part.

We had asked Russia for deeds, not words. What were we prepared to do to show that we meant peace-business?

"Supposing" she said with the casual charm of one to whom the idea has just occurred, "supposing at the end of this year our Government decided to abolish the National Service Act, would that not be a gesture of peace?"

Getting used to the idea, Sybil Morrison warmed up, "Why, it would ring around the world; unlike any other powerful country, Britain no longer believes in armies, she believes in a better way to peace. That's how it would be."

"Do you want it that way?" she challenged. The crowd shifted from one foot to the other. A bunch of soldiers going past shouted, "keep at it."

Would Christ drop A-bomb?

Francis Noble, Church of England vicar, spoke next. Christianity, democracy, these were his reasons for being against conscription. Some people had said it so often that it might sound trite, but it was still the number one question, "Would Jesus Christ drop an atom bomb?"

Just over the way from where Francis Noble spoke was the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields where Dick Sheppard, beloved founder of the Peace Pledge Union, used to preach.

The old stones must have vibrated to the same thrill of conviction as Francis Noble summed up his feelings, "Conscription is a wicked thing!"

Youth should demand freedom

To wind up the afternoon, Victor Yates, M.P. (Lab., Ladywood, Birmingham), climbed the rostrum.

The old men in the House of Commons who clamp down this forced service on youngsters were not subject to the same unfreedom themselves, he began. The young people should be more alive to the sacredness of freedom; they should demand release from this dreadful thing, conscription.

"I'm against it, root and branch," said Victor Yates. "I have told my constituents that they needn't have me as a candidate for the next election if they don't like, but I will never cast my vote for conscription!"

At this the crowd clapped its approval.

Victor Yates believes that people can do what they want to do, and if they want to build peace they can build it. If they want to put an end to unprincipled things such as this evil Act, they can do it.

"Go from this meeting," he enjoined his intent hearers, "determined to stand or fall by principle, and in the end, the world will follow you."

LONDON AREA PEACE PLEDGE UNION

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minutes walk up the hill from Golders
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KNUCKLE-DUSTERS

The truth is that no one finds his way in the Army under National Service regulations on the contrary, everyone is compelled to come in, and it is alleged that this is necessary and also democratic.

Moreover those who advocate conscription constantly assure the doubters that the Army education, physical training, comradeship and discipline make "a better man" of the recruit. Yet it now appears that boys of men with "criminal habits."

This aspect of the "better man" argument is seldom mentioned, but it can scarcely be denied that a young boy not long out of school, can be very easily influenced by suggestion of adventure or excitement, and act of violence within the environment atmosphere of Army training would probably produce the same revulsion would if it took place outside his own door.

However much the advocates of conscription may choose to wrap it up, the core remains unchanged; men conscripted to learn how to fight and for other reason whatever. The use of the bayonet, perhaps one of the most vicious of hand-to-hand fighting weapons, is still part of Army training; its sharp, two-edged biting steel attached to a rifle of considerable weight lunge of a knife in the hand is as nothing the drive of a man's weight behind with a bayonet attached.

Boys under training are exhorted to imagine the sacks into which they plunge the death-dealing steel, are men. Yet, this country will consent to boys being compelled to learn the use of such weapons, which allow them to learn also how to operate weapons of mass destruction, according to a Judge of the Assizes, tolerating the knuckle-duster.

The sentenced man in this case may be a criminal of the worst type, but he found his weapon ready to his hand in the barracks and was not, apparently, influenced by much vaunted discipline of the army.

Peace will not be achieved by persuading people in the methods of war, but only by persuading them to the methods of peace. "Deeds not words," we bawl through implacable folds of the Iron Curtain, but is more than time for Britain to undertake positive and unmistakable deed of peace, refusing the right of its Government to teach boys to learn the hideous art of killing six months it may be too late. Now is the time.

Be informed and encouraged in your witness for peace

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